(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water on "pilot basis" in the country during the IX Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 crore.

(v) Organisation of mass awareness and training programmes on water harvesting and recharging of ground water all over the country.

Watershed Development Project in Gujarat

5097. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced any plan to develop 62 lakh hectares of wasteland/ degraded lands of the country under new watershed development projects;

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the manner in which States are likely to be benefited particularly the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Watershed development projects for treatment of the wastelands/degraded lands in the country are sanctioned by Ministry of Rural Development under three Area Development Programmes, namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). It is proposed to sanction new watershed development projects covering 30 lakhs hectares of area during 2002-2003 under these three Programmes as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	Targeted area (in lakh ha.)
1.	IWDP	10
2.	DPAP	12
3.	DDP	8
	TOTAL :	30

New project proposals for these programmes are formulated by the State Governments and are submitted to Ministry of Rural Development and are sanctioned keeping in view the availability of treatable wastelands in the States, incidence of poverty, unemployment, water scarcity and performance of on-going projects in the State. Projects under the programme are implemented over a period of five years and funds are released in seven installments, on project-to-project basis and no State-wise allocations are made.

In so far as degraded lands are concerned, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation for enhancing Productivity in the degraded watersheds in River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR) to develop the degraded watersheds in the country. The scheme is being implemented under Macro Management mode of the Ministry. During the current financial year, an allocation of Rs. 5.7 crore has been proposed by the Government of Gujarat for the scheme.

In-situ soil and moisture conservation measures are the key operations in these projects, which result in improvement in the availability of surface and ground water. These projects also help in improving productivity of the degraded lands/wastelands and generate additional bio-mass, especially fuel-wood and fodder, creating more employment in rural areas in a sustainable manner, thereby ensuring overall poverty alleviation.

Water sharing talks with Nepal

†5098. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have held any talks on sharing of water of the rivers which flow in India but originate in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details of the official talks held with the Government of Nepal in this regard in the last few years; and

(c) the details of the proposals made by India for the talk?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.